

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, as follows:

1. (Presently amended) A network element having a transcoder for transcoding content of a content creator or provider that is presented in a certain form on one type of support terminal, node or device, wherein the improvement comprises ~~characterized in that~~ the transcoder having ~~has~~ a transcoder operation module for transcoding the content based on one or more permissible transcoding operations authorized by the content creator or provider so as to present the content in a different and acceptable form on another type of support terminal, node or device.

2. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the network element is a creator terminal, a content provider, a proxy/gateway or a client terminal.

3. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include any transformation, alteration or manipulation of the content permitted by the content creator or provider.

4. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include a resolution reduction module for reducing the resolution of the content.

5. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the content is reduced by either a maximum decimation factor or ratio or a minimum resolution in pixels.

6. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include an aspect ratio modification for specifying a maximum deformation that can be applied to the content when modifying its resolution.

7. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include a color and bits per pixel modification for specifying if an image can be converted to gray scale or not, and minimum bits per pixel or number of colors or levels that can be used.

8. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include cropping for specifying a region of an original picture that must be preserved.

9. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include a quality reduction for allowing the content to be further modified by adding some distortions to an image.

10. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a sequence of permissible image transcoding operations for image content includes cropping, an aspect ratio modification, a color and bits per pixel modification and a resolution reduction.

11. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the content includes images, graphics, video or audio.

12. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the transcoder responds to a signal containing the content and information about the permissible transcoding operations that may be applied on the content permissible by the content creator or provider.

13. (Presently amended) A network element according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the transcoder applies the permissible transcoding operations on the content and provides a transcoded content signal containing information about a transcoded content.

14. (Presently amended) A method for transcoding content of a content creator or provider that is presented in a certain form on one type of support terminal, node or device, wherein the improvement comprises ~~characterized in that~~ the method including ~~includes~~ a step of transcoding the content based on one or more permissible transcoding operations authorized by the content creator or provider so as to present the content in a different and acceptable form on another type of support terminal, node or device.

15. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the method is performed in a creator terminal, a content provider, a proxy/gateway, a client terminal, or a combination thereof.

16. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include any transformation, alteration or manipulation of the content permitted by the content creator ~~or provider~~.

17. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include a resolution reduction for reducing the resolution of the content.

18. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the content is reduced by either a maximum decimation factor or ratio or a minimum resolution in pixels.

19. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include an aspect ratio modification for specifying a maximum deformation that can be applied to the content when modifying its resolution.

20. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include a color and bits per pixel modification for specifying if an image can be converted to gray scale or not, and minimum bits per pixel or number of colors or levels that can be used.

21. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include cropping for specifying a region of an original picture that must be preserved.

22. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the permissible transcoding operations include a quality reduction for allowing the content to be further modified by adding some distortions to an image.

23. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a sequence of permissible image transcoding operations for image content include cropping, an aspect ratio modification, a color and bits per pixel modification and a resolution reduction.

24. (Presently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the content includes images, graphics, video or audio.

25. (Presently amended) A network having a network element with a transcoder for transcoding content of a content creator or provider that is presented in a certain form on one type of support terminal, node or device, wherein the improvement comprises ~~characterized in that~~ the transcoder ~~having has~~ a transcoder operation module for transcoding the content based on permissible transcoding operations authorized by the content creator or provider.

26. (Presently amended) A network according to claim 25, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the network includes a creator terminal, a content provider, a proxy/gateway, a client terminal or a combination thereof, one or more of which having a respective transcoder with a respective transcoder operation module for transcoding the content based on permissible transcoding operations authorized by the content creator ~~or provider~~.

27. (Presently amended) A network according to claim 25, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the network includes a content provider having a respective transcoder with a respective transcoder operation module for at least partially transcoding the content based on permissible transcoding operations authorized by the content creator ~~or provider~~.

28. (Presently amended) A network according to claim 25, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the network includes a proxy/gateway having a respective transcoder with a respective transcoder operation module for at least partially transcoding the content based on permissible transcoding operations authorized by the content creator ~~or provider~~.

29. (Presently amended) A network according to claim 25,
wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the network includes a client
terminal having a respective transcoder with a respective
transcoder operation module for at least partially transcoding the
content based on permissible transcoding operations authorized by
the content creator or provider.